



The *Blurb*



Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club

61 Years of Public Service, 1949 to 2010

Volume 60 Number 12

www.phil-mont.org

December 2010

Christmas, Hanukkah, Club Elections, Scholarship News...



And Old Timer's Night pics!

Unfortunately there is also sad news to report. November saw the passing of Betty B. Buescher King, wife of George King, W3PXY who became a silent key just last year around this time. And Ed told us on the Sunday net of the passing of the mother of Gene DiNardi, N3XKE. Condolences to the King and DiNardi families.

The Blurb is published monthly by and for the members of The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, Inc., whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. **Copying and quoting** is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs.

Requests should be sent to the Editor.

Subscriptions are available to non-members for \$12, addressed to the Treasurer.

Editor: Rick DeVirgiliis **ND3B**

nd3b@arrl.net 215-908-7225

Club Archivist: Gwen Patton **NG3P**

ng3p@arrl.net 610-630-9862

Labels and mailing: **KB3IV**

Submissions deadline: All copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the previous month.

Committees

Archives: NG3P

Audit: NS3K

Blurb folding: KB3IV
& N3GLU

Directory: KB3IV

DX: N3MT

Emerg.Coor: K3HWE

Field Day: KE3QB

Internet: N3QV & K3XS

Membership: N3XKE

Net Control: KB3IV

Directors:

W3AOK (12)

KB2ERL (10)

WU3I (11)

WA3KIO (12)

N3MT (10)

W3STW (11)

N3XKE (12)

Contact Phil-Mont: P.O. Box 88

Abington, PA 19001

<http://www.phil-mont.org>

Website: Eric N3QV &

Andrew KC2PMW

For club information: Contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes and articles for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: KB3IV

Sunday Morning Net Schedules

- **2 Meter/ 70cm Net** at 0930L on W3QV repeater
- **10-on-10 Net** at 1000L 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM)
- **75 meter Net** at 1020L 3.993 MHz LSB
- **ARES** at 2100L on the W3QV repeater

All visitors are welcome!

The club meets at 7:30 PM on the *second* non-holiday Wednesday each month except July and August at **Roxborough Memorial Hospital**, 5800 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128

Maps and directions are available at www.phil-mont.org.

License Examinations are held on the fourth **non-holiday Thursday** each month at **Community Ambulance Association, 1414 E. Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19002**

Registration begins at 7:00 P.M. Applicants should contact Jim McCloskey NS3K at 215-275-2979 or jmcclloskey@msn.com for the latest information.

Club Stations W3QV/R: The Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System

Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA **Trustee: W3RM**

147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz

Reach us on EchoLink through W3QV-R

W3AA Trustee: WU3I

W3EM: Field Day/special event station Trustee: N3QV

The Officers

Pres: KB3IV Ed Masarsky 310 Saw Mill Ln. Horsham PA 19044 kb3iv@comcast.net

Vice Pres: N3QV Eric D. Marano, PO BOX 233, Skippack PA 19474 n3qv@arrl.net

Sec: KB3MIV Jen Miller 9427 Kirkwood Rd. 1st Fl. Phila 19114 jencaz@verizon.net

Treas: W3RM Richard A. Moll roger.mike@verizon.net

Asst. Treas: N3MT Michael P. Taraborrelli michaelmt_1999@yahoo.com

The Prez Sez ...

Hello Phil-Mont,

The November PMRC Old Timers Night meeting was well attended and all had a good time. You can see pictures in this issue of the Blurb and on our website. Thanks to Andrew, KC2PMW for taking and posting the pics on the site.

The December club meeting is known as the Annual Meeting where elections take place. I am pleased that we have more candidates than positions to fill this year. I know that some of you are not able to attend the meeting but would like to participate in the election process. Well, you can. Our Judge of Elections is Jim, NS3K, and he is available to take your vote by phone up until the meeting starts on Wed. Dec. 8. Look for a listing of candidates and procedure for contacting Jim elsewhere in this edition of the Blurb. Thank you Jim, for your help and also to you and your team for the great job you do every month with the VE Testing Program.

Please mark your calendar to remind you of our 15th Annual Auction Fest on January 12th at the general membership meeting. A flyer and seller sheet will be available in next month's Blurb and also on the club website for download. This has always been a fun event and I have gone into training to improve my auctioneer skills for the coming event.

de Ed, KB3IV

NOTE: Please contact Ed, KB3IV, with any future directory changes or mailing issues.

***Phil-Mont
Birthdays & Tidbytes***

December Birthdays

01-Eric Marano -N3QV
02-Donald Gordon-WB3KOJ
Patricia Katz (XYL N3OWM)
08-Jules Stein-KB3AFH

15-Lloyd Sturgeon-W3LYS

19-Larry Stevenson-K3HWE
21-C.R. SpencerIII-N3FD
23-Roy Newman-KC2FIO
24-Richard DeVirgiliis-ND3B
Martin Weinberg-WP4MSX
25-James McCloskey-NS3K

26-James Barbere-KB3UDX

27-Mindy Pollack (XYL N3VLC)

Membership Stats

At press time PMRC had:
81 Full Paid Members
8 Family Members
6 Youth Members
2 Honorary Members



The fourth Saturday morning test session will be held on December 4th.

This month's evening VE session is on the third Thursday, December 16, due to the holiday.

As always, many thanks to our VE team !

From the SecretaryPMRC BoD Meeting Minutes, November 3rd, 2010

KB3IV began the meeting at 2010. Attending the meeting were Ed, KB3IV; Al, W3STW; Steve, WU3I; Gene, N3XKE; Bob, KB2ERL; Eric, N3QV; Bill, W3AOK; Dick, W3RM; and Jen KB3MIV.

Treasurer: W3RM reviewed the finances. All members accepted the treasurer's report. Membership: Jim Kavanagh, KB3USZ, attended the October general meeting and submitted his information for membership. The Board voted and accepted his application for membership. Nominations: W3STW spoke about the nominations and elections for next month. We briefly reviewed the bylaws. Programs: The General Meeting is Old Timer's Night. We spoke about future programs for our general meetings. December will be elections and the auction is coming up in January. A flyer will be sent out to everyone. Scholarship: The scholarship program is in place for 2011. There will be three available. The candidates for scholarships should know that the deadline has been moved to March 31st, 2011. It is available online at the FAR (Foundation for Amateur Radio) website.

Candidates also need to be enrolled or accepted at a school at that time to be eligible. The procedure will be on the club website. Repeater: Plans were made to check on the repeater. Website: The website needs to be moved to a new server and blind links were discussed. Archives: An archivist for the club is needed. They must be well organized with plenty of space. The last piece of business was to wish W3STW a Happy Birthday! The meeting was adjourned at 2126.

de Jen, KB3MIV

Minutes - General Meeting of 11/10/2010

Ed, KB3IV, called the meeting to order at 2000 hours, welcoming a good attendance of members--including Old Timers--and five visitors who were introduced: Dr. Janet Smith; Pat Mackenzie; Rick Clifford; Ron Russell, KC3UMR; and Michael Vincent, KB3UHI. Get Well wishes were requested

for our Blurb editor, ND3B; Patricia Katz, XYL of N3OWM; and Patricia DiNardi, XYL of N3XKE.

W3STW, Chair of the Nominating Committee, read the committee's slate of officers/directors for 2011, to be elected at the Annual Meeting on December 8. Al then called for nominations from the floor. There being none, upon motion and second, the nominations were closed by a vote of members present. The slate of officers, all uncontested, is as follows: President: Ed, KB3IV; Vice President: Eric, N3QV; Secretary: Jen, KB3MIV; and Treasurer: Dick, W3RM. There are four nominees for the three available Director seats: Rick, ND3B; Bob, KB2ERL; Steve, WU3I; and Al, W3STW. Voting for the three director slots will be held at the December meeting, and any members in good standing who cannot attend the December meeting may cast an absentee ballot anytime prior to the meeting...up until 7:00 p.m. on December 8, by calling Jim, NS3K, the appointed Judge of Election, at 215-275-2979. Leave a voicemail, with your Name, Callsign, and the names/calls of the three candidates for whom you wish to vote.

Our newest member, Jim Kavanagh, KB3USZ, was introduced and presented with his badge and certificate. Welcome to Phil-Mont, Jim.

Dick, W3RM, reporting for the Scholarship Committee, announced that the board has authorized three scholarship grants for 2011: The annual Claude Haring, W3IIM, Memorial Scholarship, with \$2000 grant; The George W.K. King, W3PXY, Memorial Scholarship, with \$1500 grant; and The Rolland E. Madara, W3PWG, Memorial Scholarship, with \$1500 grant. Contact W3RM for further information on the 2011 scholarship procedures.

In recognition of our annual "Old Timer's Night," those present were polled to determine the "first licensed amateur" at the meeting. Dick, W3RM, won the 'Oldest Timer' nod, having been licensed as W3PDJ in January, 1949...the year the club was established (in December).

There being no further business, that part of the meeting was adjourned, followed by a showing of "Every Single Minute", the 1958 Phil-Mont-produced 16mm film about early club mobile operations (pre-repeater era), and detailing Phil-Mont's public service during the devastating August, 1955 hurricane and floods along the Delaware River north of Philadelphia.

The meeting was adjourned at 2035 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

W3STW, Acting Secretary

Phil-Mont to Award Three Scholarships in 2011

Your board of directors has approved the grant of three "named" scholarships for the academic year 2011-12. In addition to the annual Claude H. Haring, Jr., W3IIM Memorial Scholarship, at \$2000, the club will award individual scholarships next year in memory of George W.K. King, W3PXY; and Rolland E. Madara, W3PWG, each with a grant of \$1,500.

George King, W3PXY, the last surviving of our founding members from 1949, made most significant contributions to Phil-Mont throughout 60+ years...president, treasurer, board member, Blurb editor, and much more...

And, Rolland Madara, W3PWG, whose contributions to the club during most of our 60 years are legend, was especially identified through his long tenure as trustee and operator of our club station, W3TKQ/W3AA, at the Franklin Institute Science Museum in Philadelphia.

The year 2011 will mark the tenth anniversary of our ham radio scholarship program, started in 2002 with the first Haring grant. During the ten years, Phil-Mont will have awarded a total of \$30,000 in grants to worthy young amateurs, in the EPA and SNJ ARRL sections, pursuing a college education. Administration of our scholarships, including the selection of recipients, is performed for us, without cost, by the scholarship committee of the Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc. F.A.R.

December 2010

administers some 50-60 scholarships each year on behalf of individual and club donor/sponsors.

Phil-Mont welcomes contributions to our Scholarship Fund from members and friends; and, because our corporation is recognized by the IRS as a "charitable, scientific or educational" organization under section 501-(c)(3) of their rules, all contributions are tax deductible for federal income and estate tax purposes. Contact W3RM for further information.

de Dick, W3RM

SLATE FOR 2011 PMRC OFFICERS

Pres: KB3IV Ed Masarsky

Vice Pres: N3QV Eric D. Marano

Sec: KB3MIV Jen Miller

Treas: W3RM Richard A. Moll

Directors

WU3I Stephen Hoch

W3STW Al Tribble

KB2ERL Robert Nicotera

ND3B Richard DeVirgiliis

There are three open Director posts to fill and we have four candidates. If you cannot attend the December meeting you may submit your choices to our Judge of Elections by phone. Just follow the instructions below.

Judge of Elections: Jim NS3K

Phone number: 215-275-2979

You may call Jim anytime up to 7:00PM on Dec 8th. Leave a message on his voicemail stating your name, callsign and the three candidates you are voting for.



Hey, that's no old timer!



Jules, Jack, Samuel, Frank & Bob



Al, W3STW & Larry, W3UY



Bob, W3NE Dick, W3RM & Red W3RED



Al, K3ZMJ & Sam, K3GBA



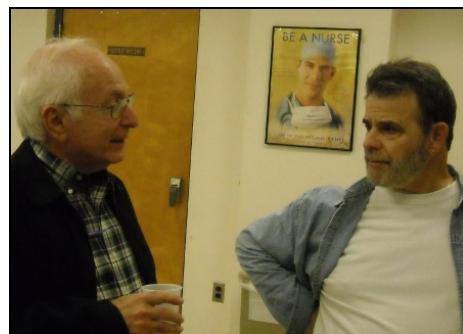
Jack, K3CHR Steve, WU3I & Samuel, KF3G



Jack, W3BXH & Dick, W3RM



KF3G & Sol, N3UBY



Jules, KB3AFH & Ed, KB3IV

Thanks to Ed KB3IV for the pictures.
See the rest on the club website.

Radio Stores ... 'N' More

by Bob Thomas, W3NE

**THE "OTHER" KITS
PAST AND PRESENT**

Heath was, without doubt, the premier manufacturer of electronics-based kits. But many others offered a narrower, though notable, scope of products that flourished until less taxing pastimes were discovered. Here are some of them along with two entries that, even today, buck the popular trend. In fact, one U.S. company manufactures ham equipment kits that even exceed the performance of the most expensive Asian products.

ALLIED RADIO was no stranger to the kit market, having sold broadcast receiver kits to nontechnical men and women in the early days of radio. In the 1940s, they sold breadboard crystal receivers actually built on a wood board included with the kit. After the war Allied introduced Knight-Kits, in competition with Heath. Perhaps the most popular Knight-Kit was the *Ocean Hopper* regenerative receiver covering 165 kc. to 35 Mc. with five plug-in coils. It started thousands of new amateurs in their hobby, first receiving W1AW code practice transmissions, then as the station receiver, and it has remained popular with today's collectors, many of whom used one as a Novice. A wide range of Knight receiver kits over the years culminated in the R100-A, with a Q-multiplier and other important features. A humble 6AG7/807 Model T50 was first in the Knight-Kit transmitter line that eventually included VHF rigs and the T150 (150 Watt) rig running a pair of 6146s. The T150 had cheapo screen modulation but connections for an external plate modulator. Allied didn't come close to the sophistication of the Heath DX-100 and SSB equipment or overall quality of construction, but they did serve a customer base having limited finances. Far beyond amateur gear, Knight-Kits were produced for all manner of test equipment, a full line of hi-fi audio amplifiers, preamps, tuners and accessories, automotive and household electronics, CB transceivers, a comprehensive range

of training kits, and even an ambitious electronic organ. Maybe not the best quality, Knight-Kits had many features at low prices that sometimes filled-in gaps in the Heathkit product line.

EICO was another major supplier of postwar kits but again, nowhere near matching Heath's breadth of products, especially in the amateur line. Once they became established, however, Eico kits did not convey the aura of borderline cheapness that characterized Heath components. Eico offered a complete line of audio and video test equipment and hi-fi products but their amateur line was rather sparse. Their transmitter products consisted of the 60-watt Model 723 80-10 Meter CW transmitter, using a dreaded sweep tube in the final, and a 90 watt 80-10 Meter Model 720 with a 6146 final. Both were CW-only transmitters, but Eico offered a well designed 50-watt modulator for running either Tx on AM. In contrast to the cheesy Heathkit standalone VFO, Eico Model 722, was built on a copper plated chassis with an internal power supply, and sported an expansive slide rule dial. Their sole SSB rig covered three bands with 200-watts PEP SSB built with an attractive brushed aluminum panel and separate matching power supply.

E.F. JOHNSON produced kits exclusively for ham radio beginning in 1949 with the 160-10M *Viking* AM/CW transmitter kit for \$209.50 (*less tubes!*). The final tube was a Raytheon 4D32 dual tetrode with Pi network plate tuning for a very conservative rating of 100-watts input on phone and 115-watts CW. It was housed in a custom desktop rack cabinet but no particular attention had been given to prevention of television interference. It wasn't long before hams who put one on the air became unpopular with neighbors just when TV was getting started and receivers were wide open to RF interference. Johnson responded by introducing the *Viking II*, incorporating latest TVI suppression methods and a new final amp with two readily available 6146 tubes in parallel. The *Viking II* kit was a rousing success soon followed by a kit for a smaller version with internal VFO, called *Ranger*, in a kit for \$179.50. Today *Rangers* command twice their 1960 kit price largely due to their solid design and high quality components. In all, Johnson turned out thirteen kits for transmitters from 50 to

500-watts as well as a VHF transmitter and 1 kW linear amplifier.

WORLD RADIO LABS was the creation of Leo Meyerson, W0GFQ, a wireless pioneer from 1920 who established a large electronics distribution company in Council Bluffs, Iowa. WRL distributed a full range of electronics parts and equipment, and under Leo's tutelage, developed more than thirty amateur transmitter kits with ratings from 40- to 500-watts between 1948 and 1959. Some of these rigs were described in a previous article, so not much more will be said here, except to comment that the top WRL kit was for the *Globe King 500C*, of 1958. It ran 500 watts input to an amplitude modulated 4-400, and 540 watts on SSB with an external exciter. It was constructed in classic style on three separate units for Power Supply/VFO, Modulator, and RF Section at a total cost of \$795. This was the ultimate Boatanchor, and best of all, you could build it yourself.

MORE KIT MANUFACTURERS. In addition to the major sources just described, transmitter kits were available from the well known transformer manufacturers Stancor and Thordarson. Lafayette Radio introduced the 6-tube *All-Star* superhet receiver kit in 1934 (W3VVS had one) to meet the requirements of amateurs and advanced SWLs. Meissner issued kits for several BC/SW receivers and their famous *Signal Shifter* VFO. Even well known Hallicrafters got into the act with kits for two shortwave receivers and several types of test equipment. More recently (fifty years ago?), Central Electronics led the migration to SSB with their 10A and 20A excitors and *Slicer* receiver sideband adaptor kits.

The kit saga could go on and on about minor kit suppliers that have become a dim memory. Several suppliers offer single PC board kits now but they are a far cry from old time elaborate kits. But if you think you have missed out on a rewarding, educational and useful pastime, think again! Here are two sources of ham radio kits that furnish all the rewards of the past with new products of modern design and construction:

TEN-TEC supplies kits for four single-band CW QRP transceivers running 3 watts for any 50 kc. segment of 80, 40, 30 or 20 meters. These compact rigs incorporate a single conversion superhet receiver with RIT and a VFO-controlled transmitter with side tone generator, full QSK and built-in T/R switching, all for \$119. Ten-Tec also manufactures Model 1254 AM/CW/SSB double conversion superhet receiver that covers 100 kc. to 30 Mc. It employs a microprocessor-controlled frequency synthesizer with digital readout and can be aligned with a volt-ohm meter and its built-in signal generator. For \$195 and 15 to 20 hours of well spent time, you will wind up with a great all-band receiver. Somewhat lower in complexity, but still a good performer, the \$89 Ten-Tec Model 1253 9 band regenerative receiver can be assembled by any raw beginner with his/her own hands for an instructive self-satisfying introduction to amateur radio.

ELECRAFT was founded in 1998 by N6KR and WA6HHQ to manufacture a range of kits to suit modern operating conditions. Their K1 transceiver kit covers two or four bands for \$300 or \$400, respectively. Both models have a VFO-controlled 5-watt CW transmitter with QSK, XIT, and a memory keyer. The receiver is a superhet with three programmable crystal filter bandwidths, RIT and digital frequency readout. The completed transceiver is only 5.2" x 2.2" x 5.6". Next step up is the K2, a CW transceiver kit with mid/high-level features and 15-watt input for \$700 and 100 watts for \$1100. The K1 and K2 are made with conventional components that you can get your fingers around and see without a magnifier. The K3 is the company's most recent product. It covers 160 to 6 meters but it employs surface-mount components, so the kit consists of pre-manufactured and tested PC boards that the builder wires into a main assembly. K3 capabilities are far too extensive to describe here, suffice it to say its performance measured by independent labs surpasses that of every other amateur transceiver on today's market. Price class is \$1500 to \$2000. Most recently, Elecraft has introduced a matching DSP Panadaptor for the K3 as well as a plug-in 2M transverter. Kits for a wide range of related

equipment and plug-in accessory modules are offered for all Elecraft transceivers to expand their capabilities. Elecraft has acquired near cult status among their users who share hardware and software hacks, some of which are even incorporated in product updates by the manufacturer. That has to be the ultimate involvement by kit builders and the products they love!

For Sale

Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club has radio equipment donated to the Scholarship Fund for sale. Please review the list below and contact Steve, WU3I, if you have any interest or questions. Contact him at wu3i@arrl.net

Updated as of 9/21/2010
 Radio shack Pro 40 headphones
 Radio shack horn speaker
 Radio shack pro 2026 Scanner
 M3 freq counter
 M3 Freq standard
 Motorola mobile HT charger
 Radio shack digital Multimeter
 Diawa CN465 2m/70 cm meter 15/75 watts
 Motorola house charger for ht
 Kenpro KR400 RC rotor controller
 Uniden Force HT with converttacom and extra battery
 Scanner antenna
 Ameritron AL 82 amp in service
 Drake L4B amp
 Ameritron RCS8V coax Switch
 Autek WM1 Meter
 Rig Blaster
 Step Ir 4 element beam
 Wire antennas
 Hazer system
 u/v vertical antenna
 50 feet tower with fold over base
 6 foot create roof tower with thrust bearing
 Ham IV with controller
 Alliance HD 73 with controller
 Alinco DR-605 dual band radio 2M/70CM

Mosley TA-33 beam \$100.00 each (2 available)
Cushcraft A-3 beam \$100.00 (1 available)

And ...

6 foot telephone relay rack on castors,
 Optoelectronics FC-50 frequency counter,
 ARRL handbooks 1933 - onward
 Kreco 10 meter coaxial vertical antenna,
 Antique headphones,
 Multimeters, old technical books and parts.

Contact Tom Bohlander WA3KLR, 215-536-1331

And ...

Kenwood TR-7950 2 meter mobile 45 watts noise canceling microphone
 w/ PL encoder - 3 diode selectable PL's
 Operators manual
 This is a great radio for APRS
 Asking \$45.00

Kenwood TH-215 2 meter 5 watt HT
 PL decoder installed (this was option when new)
 Speaker Microphone
 Cigarette lighter DC power cord
 Drop in quick charger
 Asking \$75.00

Hustler 2 meter gain antenna G7-144
 OAL 192 inches
 with documentation
 Asking \$ 10.00

Contact Rick Spencer N3FD
 Phone number available in Blurb directory

Please feel free to forward to other clubs of which you are a member

I'm baack! Looking at the incision on my leg I'd never have guessed it but three weeks later I'm almost normal again. Well maybe normal isn't the right word... but I can walk! - ed

December at PMRC ...

1st Wed – Board of Directors Meeting
2nd Thurs – First day of Hanukkah
4th Sat – VE session 0900L
5th Sun – K3XS NCS
7th Tues – Pearl Harbor Day
12th Sun – KB3TEZ NCS
16th Thurs – VE Test Session
19th Sun – KB3IV NCS
25th Sat – Christmas Day
26th Sun – KB3SJS NCS

And don't forget the **ARES** net every Sunday night at 2100L and the new **Digital Net** Tuesdays at 1900L, both on W3QV/R

Check out this rope for your antenna project –

3/32" Braided Olive Drab - Dacron / Polyester cord

This is a high quality braided polyester cord with a breaking strength of 210 pounds. Proudly Made in the U.S.A.!

This is a gorgeous solid braid perfect for dipole antennas. Very low stretch and strong. Will withstand the weather & sun for 7 to 10 years.

**PRICE \$10.00 PER 100 FEET
 SOLD IN 100 FOOT LOTS
 CONTACT STEVE WU3I AT
 WU3I@ARRL.NET**

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First Class Mail

310 SAW MILL Lane, Apt 6D, Horsesham PA 19044

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc

The Blurb